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# C A L I F O R N I A

## Labor & Workforce Development Agency

### NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Paul Feist  
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**Date:** November 20, 2007  
**News Release No.:** 07-03

### **\$10.1 Million Will Go to Help Military Spouses Pursue Career Training**

SACRAMENTO – California will receive \$10.1 million in federal funds to provide financial assistance to military spouses who want to pursue career training for high-demand, high-growth occupations, the state Labor and Workforce Development Agency announced Tuesday.

Over the next three years, the Military Spouse Career Advancement Initiative will help military spouses at targeted installations in the San Diego area and at Camp Pendleton. Career Advancement Accounts in the amount of up to \$6,000 can be used for expenses related to post-secondary education and training.

The funding is part of a \$35.2 million initiative by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Department of Defense targeting military bases throughout the country.

"California owes a debt of gratitude to military spouses and their families for their sacrifices. This program will help them develop the skills they need to jumpstart or advance careers in occupations that are in high demand throughout the country," said Victoria Bradshaw, secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Training and education will be targeted to industry sectors that provide the greatest opportunity for career portability. Military spouses can use their Career Advancement Accounts to obtain training in the health care, information technology, education, financial services and construction industries.

"This scholarship initiative recognizes the importance of the military spouse and it highlights their key role in contributing to the stability and support of the military family while their loved ones are deployed overseas defending our freedoms," said Tom Johnson, secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Military spouses have unemployment rates that are three times higher than the civilian unemployment rate, and nearly three quarters of military spouses say career training programs cost more than they can afford.

Eligible participants are spouses with sponsors in pay grades E1-E5 and 01-03 who have completed some college, or who have obtained a high school diploma or GED. Information about eligibility and career education opportunities will be available at participating installations' Voluntary Education Centers and online at [www.MilSpouse.org](http://www.MilSpouse.org).

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